turnover and competition as stated in the 'Modifications in the Drug Policy, 1986' announced in September, 1994 has been adopted for inclusion of bulk drugs in the price controlled category. Accordingly, some drugs which were under price control in DPCO, 1987 have been decontrolled and at the same time some other drugs which were outside the purview of price control under the DPCO, 1987 have come under price control in DPCO, 1995 which was notified on 6.1.1995. During the five months period of September, 1994 to February, 1995 the increase for wholesale prices (1981-82 base) shows an increase of 0.4 percent for the price of drugs and medicines against an increase of 4.0 percent for all commodities.

M/s. The Southern Pesticides Cooperation Ltd

1734. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. Southern Pesticides Corporation Ltd., Kovvur; Andhra Pradesh is in the process of becoming sick due to lack of orders;

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to keep the factory viable; and

(c) what action is being taken to diversify production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The M|s. Southern Pesticides Corporation Ltd. has been declared a sick company on 15.9. 1994 by the Board for Industrial and Financial Re-constructions in term of Section 3(1)(0) of sick Industrial Companies (Spl. Provisions) Act, 1985. The BIFR has appointed IDBI as its Operating Agency for determining measures for revival of the company.

Consequences of shortages of natural gas supply

1735. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased state:

(a) whether a shortage of natural gas supplies to the fertilizer sector will necessitate a hike in fertilizer prices;

(b) if so, to what extent will fertilizer prices increase due to a shift in feedstock from natural gas to other raw materials; and

(c) the steps proposed to supply fertilizer at reasonable prices to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Any change in the use of feedstock due to shortage of natural gas or otherwise will not have any direct impact on the sale price of controlled fertilizers.

(c) Does not arise, in view of (a) & (b) above.

Most Required Variety of Fertilisers

1736. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) which is the most required variety of fertiliser in the country;

(b) what quantum of subsidy is provided on it; and

(c) the details of its import alongwith indigenous production during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Urea accounts for about 59 per cent of the total fertiliser consumption in the country in terms of nutrients.